

cerned, no improvement upon Ptolemy's map.<sup>1</sup> There is, however, and probably for the first time on any map, to be found the name of Tebet north of Miheu, Cina, and India Terza. This notion is derived from Marco Polo. Ganges and Indus come down from the southern side of M. Imaus. Indus has five feeders, of which the one in the middle comes from a small lake. The easternmost feeder, corresponding to the Satlej, is the longest, and, beyond it, on the northern side of the Imaus, is a lake called Mare Breunto. The Ganges has two principal feeders, the western coming from M. Imaus, and the eastern from Tebet. To the west of the Ganges we read the name Phison, indicating that the Ganges was one of the four rivers of paradise.<sup>2</sup> The Indus flows to the Mare Indicum where Bangala is situated, while the Ganges goes to Sinus Gangeticus. Between the Indus and the Ganges and parallel to them flows the river Mandus coming from a nameless lake, situated in a little range south of and parallel to the Imaus. The fact that the city of Ava is placed on the eastern bank of the Mandus proves that this river stands for Irrawaddi, and the information is drawn from Conti. In this respect the confusion on Fra Mauro's map is much greater than that on the map of 1447, where the river of Ava is at least to the east of the Ganges.

It is interesting to note that the river of Ava is shown as taking its origin from a lake, just as BARROS reported less than a hundred years later. Should Fra Mauro's nameless lake be an embryo of the mysterious Chiamay Lacus which caused so much mischief during later centuries? It is not impossible that the same Burmese myths and legends have been the root from which both lakes have derived their appearance on early European maps. Whether this interpretation be correct or not it should be remembered that on a map of 1459 no fewer than three lakes are placed near the sources of the Ganges and Indus, though two of them are, just as the sources, placed at the southern side of the Himalaya.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Prof. Theobald Fischer has published a »Fac-simile del Mappamondo di Fra Mauro dell'anno 1457, Venezia 1877». Another Mappamondo di Fra Mauro is published in *Studi Italiani di Filologia Indo-Iranica* diretti da Francesco L. Pullé, Vol. IV. *Atlante della Parte I.* Firenze 1901. In Holdich's *Tibet the Mysterious* is a reproduction of the part of the map where the name Tebet is inscribed, p. 8. For our purposes the sketch in Zurla's work, *supra cit.*, will be sufficient. It has the title: »Abbozzo del Mappamondo di F. Mauro Camaldolese, Cosmografo Incomparabile alla Metà del Sec. XV. (Già esistente nella biblioteca di S. Michele di Murano ora nella Marciana)».

<sup>2</sup> The hydrography of Genesis 2: 10—14 has dominated the geographical world for many centuries, as pointed out in earlier chapters of this work. In a manuscript collection found by Mario Longhena at Parma there is, amongst other things, an anonymous *Orbis Descriptio*, probably from the beginning of the 14th century, where the hydrography of Genesis is explained as follows: »At fluvius egrediebatur de loco voluptatis ad irrigandum paradysum qui inde dividitur in quattuor capita nomen uni Phison id est Ganges ipse est qui circuit omnem terram Eiulat id est Indie ubi nascitur aurum illius terre optimum est. Ibique invenitur bdellium et lapis onichinus. Et nomen fluvio secundo Geon id est Nilus, ipse est qui circuit omnem terram Ethiopie. Nomen vero fluminis tertii Tigris. ipse vadit per assyrios. Fluvius autem quartus ipse est Eufrates: ipse vadit per terram chaldeorum.» *Studi Italiani . . . Anno V, Vol. V. Append., p. 22.*

<sup>3</sup> Fra Mauro's map is influenced by Marco Polo. There is a lake Lop, and a Deserto Lop; there are Samargant, Balch, and Jerchan. Tangut is placed at Lake Lop. Chatajo and Cina are